Postage to foreign countries added.

Pants-Klosque Mo. 12, near Grand Hotel, and que No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines,

feation wish to have rejected articles returned, they mus mail cases send slamps for that purpose,

Room for Discrimination.

It is not the past but the present management and ownership of the Ramapo Water Company that interests and concerns the

people of New York. Nor is it the mere proposition of a certain plan of future water supply that breeds suspicion. Such a plan on its merits may or may not be expedient, but it is certainly contemplated and provided for in the charter of this municipality. The scandal is not in the proposition or consideration of a long term contract for private supply, but in the sudden, subterranean way in which it has been attempted to complete the contract and fasten an enormous annual expenditure upon the city of New York for forty years to come.

That is what gives the business most decidedly the aspect of a huge grab or job. Up to date the only persons implicated, except by the wildest and crudest inferences, in the Ramapo water scheme are the Tammany officials who have sought to force it through in the darkness.

Their efforts have been defeated, thanks to the vigilance and independent courage of Comptroller BIRD S. COLER; and to Comptroller Coles every honest citizen of New York is deeply indebted.

A Notable Discussion Closed.

The volume of the correspondence which has come to us upon the religious subjects which have been discussed so freely in THE Bun of late exceeds by far any which has been provoked by any other controversy aroused by this newspaper. It reveals a depth of interest in the questions raised which is full of suggestion for all religious teachers at this time. It is also marked by an intellectual ability and a literary quality which tend to increase our pride in the splendid constituency of readers which it is our privilege to address. So great, however, has been its volume, that, much as has been the space we have allowed to it, we have not been able to publish one-tenth part of even the letters which command our respect most highly.

Such a discussion must be brought to an end at some time, and, so far as the particular phase of the subject with which this correspondence deals, it must now properly be closed. Inevitably, of course, further questions of religion will be discussed both by THE SUN itself and by its intelligent correspondents, for we recognize no separation between the religious and the secular which limits the field of duty and interest to be cultivated by this paper. Moreover, this religious discussion, as pursued by our correspondents, is not degraded by the insincerity and flippant captiousness which distinguish, unhappily, so large a part of the current political discussions. It rather offers a lesson to political controversialists which they would do well to heed. It seeks to express earnest conviction and to appeal to reason and conviction by solid and honest argument and not to gratify partisan prejudice by transparent intellectual trickery and a perversion of fact which assumes gross and nd character might well be imitated by writers who undertake to discuss questions of finance or pretend to deal with the merits of opposing party politics. A great part of such discussion at the present time really insults the knowledge and the common sense of newspaper readers and tends, lamentably, to lessen public respect for journalistic judgment.

This particular religious discussion of THE SUN will now end the more fitly because each side of it has received fair and full representation. The multitude of letters which we have been unable to publish have only repeated in different form arguments and sentiments which those printed have brought out and expressed. The trouble in the controversy has been the difficulty, nay, the impossibility of an agreement by the contestants on the premises from which they argue. The basis of all theology is necessarily supernatural and consequently dogmatic in a strictly scientific sense; yet this whole controversy turns on the acceptance or rejection of such dogma. Agnosticism does not deny, but it demands scientific proof before believing, while faith implies that such proof is as unnecessary as it is impossible, else simple faith would not be requisite. How, then, can the two argue together? Each can do no more than present his side; and that we have permitted them to do in these columns.

The discussion has been fruitful in good because it has shown how deep and pervasive, even in these days accused religious indifference, is the interest in the subject of religion, the greatest which can engage the mind of man, and it has tended to increase the charity and respect of the disputants for each other and for the school of thought or feeling which each represents.

The Treatment of Incorrigibles.

The old adage, "There are two sides to every question," is applicable to the question of abuses in institutions, as to all other questions. We are compelled in fairness to consider both sides of the question.

Here is a boy who is incorrigible. Only

those who have had experience with such boys realize the full meaning of that word, This oy can look you in the eye and with attractive manner gains your confidence and he takes the first opportunity to rob you. Cross his path and you are assailed with the most horrid oaths and the vilest epithets. He defles all authority. Gather a hundred or more such boys in an institution. How will you control then Devise most useful well to public officers as to every method and yet you will often be at managers of private enterprises. An ounce your wit's end. Administer punishment for serious mise n luct, and you are a brute,

he is an institution inmate and the officers

are looked upon as brutes. Is it any wonder that people who have so little knowledge of incorrigible boys and girls, and who are prejudiced against the officials of an institution should so readily believe the charges of abuse?

The managers of juvenile reformatories and kindred institutions are selected from the best sort of citizens, and it is to be assumed that they in turn select the best qualified people they can find to put in immediate charge of such institutions. It is fair, also, to presume that most of the people thus selected will endeavor to perform their duties to the best of their ability. But it must be borne in mind that they are taxed to their utmost to control the incorrigibles, and when defied by them feel them selves compelled to gain control or suffer defeat. Any effort to gain control can easily be charged to cruelty.

That severe measures are sometimes 30 sorted to cannot be doubted. Former methods of discipline proceeded upon the principle that every act of disobedience should be visited with corporal punishment. This method tended to severity and even to abuse, although not so intended. Public protests against such methods have led to the abolishment of corporal punishment in many institutions. The wisdom of this course may be questioned, and yet it has seemed necessary in order to check

abuses of the old method. If the old method was wrong what is the right method? It is the method that will confer the greatest benefit upon the boy or girl, and at the same time maintain proper discipline. Severity will secure discipline, but it tends to harden the child. That which benefits the child will benefit the discipline. Severity meets a bad boy on his own ground. He expects it and he is prepared for it. Firmness combined with true kindness, not foolish sentiment, will reach most cases. How to treat the exceptional cases is the difficult problem. Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON laid down the principle, "Children being not reasonable must be governed by fear." He referred to the exceptional cases, the incorrigibles.

We are inclined to think there are some cases, very few perhaps, that can be cured in that way better than in any other.

Misfortunes of one kind and another have befallen most of the children who find their way into institutions. As a result they have fallen into evil ways which in turn have caused them to be ill treated on every hand, until they have learned to distrust everybody. For this reason it is exceedingly difficult to gain their confidence. What they need is sympathy and friendship; not a sickly sympathy, nor friendship that terminates with the first sign of bad conduct, but that interest in their welfare that seeks to benefit and elevate them.

If the officers and employees of institutions were governed by such a spirit they would gain the confidence and good will of the majority of inmates, secure obedience and avert the charge of cruelty. Not that they could invariably avert such charges. for as long as there is an incorrigible boy who defles all authority and a sentimentalst who sympathizes with him, and a yellow journal to raise the cry, charges of oruelty are likely to arise.

We have the incorrigible children to control and elevate, and we have the officers, teachers and employees who are endeavorng to perform this most difficult task. We should not add to the burden of the latter by misguided sympathy with the former Nor should we overlook the fact, well known to all philanthropists, that thousands of wayward children have been saved from a life of crime because of the training and instruction received in our reforma tory institutions.

Lawyers as Executive Officers,

The new Secretary of War, Mr. ELIHU Roor, has taken hold of the work of his office in a quiet but thorough way, which promises well for his success in administerstupid ignorance in the reader. Its tone in it. He makes no promises, and he and the evidence, as he would with those of a case he had to try in court, and as soon as he has mastered them, he will go shead in a manner, which, we are confident, will satisfy the nation.

In spite of a widespread belief to the contrary, the training of a good lawyer is the best possible preparation for the duties of an executive office. The mere fact that lawyers are so often called upon to undertabe these duties, is of itself a conclusive argument in favor of their fitness for them. Ignorant demagogues may declaim as much as they please against the preponderance in the government of men of the legal profession, but if their objections were justified the people would have long age found it out. That so many lawyers are sent to Legislatures and to Congress and are elected as Mayors, Governors and even Presidents, proves that experience in practising law does not disqualify, at least, men for public service in these capacities.

Successful lawyers, more than men in any other calling, are required to possess general knowledge of things. In the course of their practice they are obliged to make themselves acquainted with all sorts of business, scientific and industrial matters. Every important case compels them to study not only the law bearing upon it, but the mercantile, commercial and manufacturing principles which it involves Patent-law lawyers, especially, have to be as well acquainted with modern science as if they were college professors, and even more so, but apart from this special class no lawyer can successfully advise his clients, or try their cases in court, who does not know as much as they do about the details of the matter involved. The acquiring of this knowledge, quickly and thoroughly, becomes a habit and begets a skill, which,

applied to public affairs, is invaluable. A good lawyer, too, becomes accustomed to exactness and precision in conducting business. He finds, early in his career, that his opponents are on the lookout for flaws in his contracts, in his pleadings and in the evidence which he offers when trying a case or arguing it to the court, and he takes his precautions accordingly. The loose phraseology and imperfect expression of mean ing, of even the best business men, are as he sees, the principal sources of the an anocen smile tell a tarefaced lie. His litigation which he is called upon to conduct, and he takes warning by their example. Hence, in a public office, a lawyer will avoid many mistakes into which a layman would fall, and he thus prevents

troublesoms disputes. Moreovez, a knowledge of law is of itself most useful a well to public officers as to of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and if presidents of corporations and heads of beating, kicking and stamping upon an in- private firms were better instructed noe at toy. The boy says this, and it is in law than many of them are, they confirmed by the discharged employee who would be better qualified for their is ever ready to "Let square" with those in positions. There are numerous instances authority. The public know neither the in which lawyers have taken charge of rail-

commercial companies and conducted them well, but it is rare that a man goes from

business to the bar with equal success. It is true that lawyers are not all deserving of credit for the good qualities we have mentioned. Some of them are inaccurate, slovenly, and even ignorant of law itself. The acts of legislatures and Congress afford abundant evidence of this fact. Although they are drawn by lawyers and corrected by lawyers, they are frequently so bungling in their language that courts are puzzled to interpret them, and fail of their purpose because they do not express it clearly. Of errors in private practice also, committed by lawyers, instances are not uncommon, and they detract greatly from the confidence which people in general would otherwise place in their advice.

Nevertheless, we repeat, that a well-trained and well-informed lawyer like ELIHU Roor, is the best possible material out of which to make an executive officer, and we shall be greatly disappointed if Mr. Roor does not confirm our opinion.

A Great Year for Harmonizers. There has been no public announcement yet of any reward offered by the present leaders of the Democratic party for longdistance harmonizers. Were there such a prize, it would be a difficult matter to decide between the contestants. On nearly every point of Democratic party faith the number of those who stand fully prepared to adjust all differences and to appease all antipathies is unprecedentedly large. There are those who propose to harmonize the financial dispute by an unequivocal declaration for silver, leaving the ratio to take care of itself or to be settled by Congress. There are those who favor a discreet slience in the platform as to all financial questions; those who propose the moss-covered device of "leaving the whole matter to Congress," and saying nothing about it meanwhile, There are those who are for pledging the nominee to disavow all convictions as to the question of currency. There are those who propose that the nominee shall withhold until after the election any declaration of his views, however radical, positive and determined they may be.

On the subject of the lated and fated trusts the all-round harmonizers are just as busy. Here are some of their methods of dealing politically with the monsters:

1. Denunciation of trusts, one and all. 2. Denunciation of one trust in particular, selecting one in which no Democratic statesman happens

3. Vigorous denunciation of the present tariff as the cause of trusts. No war on trusts till tariff is 4. Submitting the trust question to Congress,

 Municipal ownership, State accialism or single tax as a means of deliverance from trusts; a referendum to decide which. 6. Silence as to the truets, their enormity being too

great for minor details. 7. More silver, the "money power" being accepted as the largest trust of all. He is an unreasonable person indeed who would not be willing to accept one of these

planks, and the busy harmonizers are not particular which plank is taken, providing all Democrats will stand upon it. On the subject of the foreign relations of the Unded States, the exercise of its sovereignty where it is forcibly assailed, and

the acceptance of the responsibilities incurred through the victories of American arms in two hemispheres, the harmonizers offer equally varied political schemes for suiting all tastes in platform declarations: 1. War to the knife and knife to the hilt. No steps

criticized roundly. 2. Hauldown the flag. In dealing with armed foes and with disturbers, the policy of the United States

is the policy of peace through arbitration. 8. Praise for American soldiers and sailors-but don't let them do it again. 4. No militarism. No imperialism. The Constitu ion at all hazards. No martial law in the United

States or elsewhere. 5. Submit the whole matter to Congress. 6. Adjust present differences by corresponde with Aguinatho.

7. Appoint a new commission for the settlement of matters of dispute and elect meanwhile the Democratic nomines for President.

It is clearly observable that the uncontrollable activity of these "harmonizers" is exclusively limited to the Democratic line. No Republican harmonizers have appeared. Nor does there appear to be a need (of any. The position on all public questions of the Republican party is clearly cut, explicit and unmistakable. The voters of the United States, whatever their predilections, have little sympathy and less respect for the professional harmonizers and trimmers at an important period of national affairs, and the Democratic harmonizers do well to exert themselves while they may, for they will be sent to the rear by their own party very soon after the close of 1899 and before next year's fight really begins.

Japan and China.

There have been of late many indications of a willingness on the part of the Manchu officials, who, for the moment, are dominant at Pekin, to enter into friendly and even intimate relations with Japan. On the other hand, there is a knot of influential politicians at Tokio, headed by the Marquis Iro, who have not renounced the desire of seeing their country acquire a moral, if not a physical, ascendancy over the Middle Kingdom, a desire which they strongly hoped to see realized at the close of the recent war.

A step in the direction of a more cordial understanding between the neighboring powers was made about six weeks ago. when a commission left Shanghai for Tokio bearing valuable gifts for the Mikado. Ostensibly, the mission was purely a commercial one, but according to a correspondent of the London Times, the commissioners were empowered to discuss a treaty of alliance, and it has been since rumored that such an alliance has been formed. It is certain, however, that Russia would protest vehemently against such a coalition. and the protest would be backed by LI HUNG CHANG, who has become a zealous upholder of the Czar's interests. The time, indeed seems to have gone by when Japanese administrators might have brought about the civil and military regeneration of China. and, ultimately, the union of that country

and Japan under the Mikado. There is no doubt that, if the Japanese in 1894-'5 had been left untrammelled by the European powers, their uninterrupted series of victories would have been followed by the occupation of Pekin, the dethronement of the long-discredited Manchu dynasty and the assertion of the Mikado's authority throughout the Celestial Empire. Even had the Treaty of Shimonoseki, concluded on April 17, 1895, been allowed to stand, the Japanese, firmly established in the Liao Tung peninsula, would have soon gained control of Manchuria and Corea, and must, eventually, have acquired great in- sion and national destiny, he could not posfluence at Pekin, first as advisers, and then as organizers of a drastic system of fiscal, administrative and military reform.

There is no waste in the collection of the Mikado's revenues, any attempt at peculacharacter of the boy ner his offense. But | roads, manufacturing, financial and even | tion being visited with instant and condign

levied throughout the Middle Kingdom would reach the imperial treasury, and they would be amply adequate to the maintenance of an army and navy which, under Japanese officers, would prove efficient. The Japanese understand the Chinese character better than any Europeans can be expected to do, and they would know how to make the best of the raw material which, under Gordon against the Taepings and later, against the French in Tonquin, was shown to be adaptable to warfare. It is, in a word, unquestionable that the Japanes could have done more for China than has ever been effected by any of its dynasties

in the past, and, in the early months of

1895, it looked as if they might have the

pportunity.

When, on April 25, 1895, the Russian, French and German governments protest ed against the acquisition of any Chineso territory on the mainland of Asia by Japan, and when the Mikado, failing to secure any support from England, was forced to yield to the pressure exerted by the three powers first named. China's chance of regeneration through Japan's help seems to have passed away. Compelled to surrender the Lino Tung peninsula, and, practically, prohibited by Russia from retaining any hold on Corea, the Japanese had to renounce their dream of preponderance in Eastern Asia and to content themselves with such insular acquisitions as Formosa and the Pescadores. It is absurd to suppose that Russia, which would not suffer the Mikado to keep an inch of ground in Manchuria, would permit him to acquire seendancy at Pekin, if she could possibly prevent it. The St. Petersburg Government was willing in 1895 to fight sooner than to permit the execution of the Shimonoseki Treaty, and it is now far better qualified for war on the coast of the Pacific than it was four years ago.

It is as certain now as it was then to be backed by Germany and France in resistance to a reorganization of China by Japanese officials, for this would put an end to further encreachments by the powers named, and would even seriously endanger what they have already secured. Would England now support Japan in a resolute attempt to regenerate the Chinese Empire? The fate of Eastern Asia would hinge on the answer to this question. It is probable that, at present, while the

Trans-Siberian railway is still unfinished, Great Britain, by virtue of her preponderance in the China seas, could coerce Russia, France and Germany into refraining from any interference with an alliance between Japan and the Middle Kingdom. It would behoove the British Foreign Office, however, to foresee the almost inevitable consequences of such an alliance. If Japanese officials were once placed in control of China's fiscal system and of her army and navy, the vast superiority of their administrative methods would prove irresistably attractive to the mass of the population, and the supersession of the Manchu dynasty by the Mikado would be only a question of time.

Does Great Britain wish to witness the emergence in Eastern Asia of a New Japan possessing ten times the resources and the population of the old? Lord CHARLES Beresford, in his somewhat indiscriminate distrust of Russia, would answer the question in the affirmative. A very different view of the matter is taken by the London Spectator, which is the organ of the Unionist Liberals. That journal acknowledges that China has the fullest right to ally herself with Japan and to make of the alliance a new source of strength; but that the transaction would tend to the advantage of Great Britain it utterly denies.

The Spectator maintains, on the contrary, that such an alliance, earried to its logical result, would place immense masses of the material of power in the hands of Mongolians, that is to say of a race which has not accepted Christianity, which is of a pitiless character, and which is dominated the price of live stock; and this enhancing of the by a vanity having all the effects of ambi- value of the herd has been brought about by the tion and few of its restraints. Would the general abortage of live stock for slaughter Chinese, led by the Japanese, it asks, be pleasant neighbors to Bengal, which they could reach through Thibet far more easily than Russia can reach the Indus? It is true that the Russians are inclined

to restrict trade, but what kind of restrictions would China, under Japanese control enforce, once relieved of the fear of compulsion by European soldiers? Is it not probable that Japan, which has already shown itself able to compete in the market of the far East with European manufacturers as regards many commodities, would desire to retain the Chinese market for herself? If the choice lay between Russian and Japanese ascendency at Pekin, the Spectator, for its part, cannot conceive how England, and Europe in general, should fail to prefer the former alternative.

Mr. Reed as Mr. Croker's Preceptor.

One theory of the Hon. RICHARD CROK-ER's sudden conversion to anti-imperialism is that during his recent passage across the Atlantic he sat at the feet of the Hon. THOMAS B. REED, and listened to his teachings on the subject of Empire Can Wait. We believe this theory originated with

the Washington correspondent of our esteemed contemporary, the Chicago Inter Ocean. It was founded on the subjoined facts and inferences:

"REED is an anti-expansionist as much as Senator HOAR. REED and CROKER came across the Atlantic on the same steamer. They were together much of the time, and this was the only opportunity which Choken had from the time he left New York until his return to converse intelligently with a man of strong convictions who knew much about public affairs in this country, and he was glad enough to accept the opinion of somebody who had a well-formed opinion to contribute. The language which CROEER used in announcing his perversion is almost the language which REED might have used in one of his commonplace moments. CHORER was soaked with REED's opinions, and the first man who inter viewed him in New York simply squeezed them out."

On the other hand our esteemed contemporary, the Boston Herald, gravely remarks, on the strength of private information:

"We have some reason for knowing that Mr. REED did not spend his nights and days in the work of changing the views of the New York boss, but that, on the contrary, such intercourse at they had was of an entirely incidental and casual character." The discussion of Mr. REED's responsi-

bility is unprofitable. CROKER's so-called conversion to the opinions held by Mr. BHYAN concerning the American policy in the Far East was contemporaneous and coincident with his discovery that BRYAN is one of the greatest of American statesmen. living or dead.

The one logically involves the other. For if Mr. BRYAN were dead-wrong on so important a question as that of American expansibly be regarded as one of the greatest of American statesmen. Precisely the same motives which im-

pelled Mr. CROKER to declare his admiration for Mr. BRYAN'S powers of leadership required him to record simultaneously his

punishment. In Japanese hands, the taxes adhesion to the party opposed to the

American policy. Mr. REED may therefore be acquitted unless, indeed, it is assumed that it was he also who first taught Mr. CROKEB to appre clate BRYAN's true greatness.

The everlasting question of collective nouns to which there are two sides as surely as there are two sides to a sheet of paper, comes up once more in this criticism of the literary style of a gallant officer of the United States Navy: "To THE EDITOR OF THE SUB-Sir: In a published

letter signed by a Commander in the United States Navy, appears the following sentence: 'This is to certify that the United States Government through "As THE BUN IS A recognized authority on the English language, I respectfully ask what sort of a sentence should be imposed upon a man (who must have been through the higher branches) who will write such a sentence? If he had said the 'United States' and 'their,' it might have been excusable, but even then I think the 'United States,' when used collectively, should be referred to as "it." "But the United States Government' and 'their'

representative! Well! please reply in Sunday's issue. I may be wrong. F. D. G."

The Commander was within his rights, if in thinking of the Government of the United States the idea of plurality rather than of unity was uppermost in his mind. While it is per-haps true that the tendency of modern usage is toward the use of the singular pronoun in such cases, it is certainly not a crime against

the English language to follow the example set by the authors of the United States Constitution when they said: "The House of Representatives shall choose their

"The Senste shall choose their other officers," &c. "Unless the Congress by their adjournment," &c. The English language is a splendidly flexible instrument, thank Heaven! and apparently its possibilities and alternatives are studied at Annapolls with the United States Constitution as one of the text books,

THE MARCH OF CIVILIZATION. The Irresistible Tendency of Civilization to Dominate the World. From) an article by Charles Kendall Adams in the

Of the eight several annexations to our territory since the forming of the Government, not one was anticipated by the fathers or provided for in the Constitution; and this acquisitive spirit has been in exact harmony with the spirit of all the other great nations of the

Look at the international signs of the times Since the Crimean war, Bussia has added to her territory from the heart of Asia a domain nearly as large as the whole of the United States; Germany has acquired on the cast const of Africa as many square miles as we possess east of the Mississippi River; the dependencies of France in Africa are still greater: Holland, Portugal, and Belgium have their share; and Great Britain, firmly planted at the South and at the North, will soon connect the Cape and the Nile by rail, and ere long make the heart of Africa as accessible as is now the heart of America. In the far East the same tendencles are equally irresistible. The railroad from St. Petersburg to the Yeilow Sea covers a hundred degrees of longitude,-twice the distance from New York to San Francisco. This irresistible spirit is knocking at the gates of China and the everlasting doors, which from the dawn of history have successfully defied all intrusive efforts, are giving way and admitting the civilization of the Occident.

It is the advance of civilization upon barbarism. It is the Eastern Question, which has ever agitated the world since the time of Xerxes and Alexander the Great, now at length approaching solution. It is the ever irresistible encroachment of the Occident upon the Orient. of the modern spirit upon the spirit of antiquity. It is the substitution of the railroad train for the oxeart and the caravan. It is electricity driving out the rushlight. It is the white man ever civilizing the red man or pushing him out of the way.

Do not all these facts point in the same direc-

tion? Is it not certain that civilization is to take possession of every nook and corner of the globe? Is it not inevitable that in the near future the doors that have always been shut will be thrown wide open ?

The Increasing Price of Meat. From the National Provisioner.

The rise in the wholesale price of meat has been radual and due entirely to causes over which the packer himself has had no control. It has been the commercial result of the gradual rise in purposes, and the increased cost of producing hand (stall fed) beef, because of the shortage of feed and the increased cost of getting it. If the past prices of meat were right the present prices are so, since they are calculated on the same basis. A comparison of the market for beef cattle on the hoof in Chicago and Kansas City for Aug. 10, 1897, 1898 and 1899, shows that the following top and average prices were paid by the packers at the stockyards in open competition for hand fed and choice Western beef cattle: Aug. 10, 1897, prime cattle, live weight, \$4.80, average, \$4.15, making the prime dead meat cost, \$7.90, or nearly 8c per pound to produce. The butcher paid less for it Aug. 10, 1608, prime stock fetched \$5.25; average good heifers brought \$4.50. This made prime dresses beef cost \$8.50, or 8'2c, per pound landed. Aug. 10, 1890, prime beef cattle sold for \$6,20; average, good, \$5.25, making the carcass of prime cost landed, 89.25, or 914c, per pound.

The price of cattle has been creeping up for two years in proportion to the shortege of stock and the expensive food and weather conditions for producing marketable beef. We have warned the retail trade of these advancing conditions and from time to time advised them to meet the Inevitable by putting up their shop prices. That they have lingered at the old prices for two years and are now forced to meet the state of trade in one jump is as unfortunate as it was unnecessary, but the wholesalers are not to blame, inasmuch as the stock grower draws first blood from the slaughterer and for spot cash at that If any one questions this statement let him bid at the stockyards with millions back of him and ask for credit.

Competitive Examination for the Army. From alute discussion in the British Medical Assoclation, reported in the Medical Record.

Dr. Sykes was of the opinion that the officers seeured in the army were unsultable; they were se-lected for their literary and scientific attainments and no account at all was taken of their physical capacity the consequence was the wrong men were chosen. There was only one nation besides the British that chose its officers by literary tests, and that was the Chinese, and could anything be more inefficient than their army? Why did the young officers die off in India? Because of their poor physique and conse quent inability to sustain fatigue and resist the effects of the climate. "There is something rotten inithe state of Denmark," said the speaker in conclu alon, and the system urgently required revision. Surgeon-General Cuffe thought that the officer were deficient in physique very often, though emi-

nently qualified from a literary point of view; but vacancies occurred, and it was necessary to fill them with the best men obtainable.

Dr. Mitchell Bruce, in summing up the discussion advised members to draw up some resolutions making a request of the war office in the name of the British Mcd'al Association that the physical should precede the educational test; that soldlers should not be required to serve in the tropics under the age of twenty-two years, and that the physical standard for admission into the army should be reconsidered in the direction of raising and not of lowering.

Our Enormous Domestic Trade. From the New York Commercial,

Our best grip upon the foreign market is possible only by means of a firmer one upon our own, compared with which, to importance, our combined to reign out et is little more than a shadow. We expressed the belief the other day that our last year's trade of \$212,000,000 with the East could easily be doubled in the next six years, and to this we adhere. But we are doing nearly 100 cents' worth of domestic business for each three and a haif mills' worth of Original business. Our total foreign trade cannot exceed over 5 per cont of our total foreign and domestic trade together.

THE CASE OF THE BOERS.

for Independence, Not Against Civilian tion, They Are Contending.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The letter in to-day's issue of THE BUN headed " Civiliza tion and the Boers," dated Washington, by "L J. P.," is of great value in the discussion of this subject, but its chief value, so it seems to me, is its unintentional support of the Boer cause. The writer says the situation pretty thoroughly understood in this country." It is, but not with the conclusion he assumes, pamely, support of the steady and unrelenting aggression of the British Government, or rather the Tory party when in power, against the independence of a brave race of ploneers He says: "Great Britain is clearly in the right in its main claim, while the Transvaal authorities are almost wholly wrong." In support of this statement the assertion is made that "the essence of their objection to the British proposals is fear of modern progress and educa tion. Their career shows this. They have sought to avoid these by isolating themselve

tion. Their career shows this. They have sought to avoid these by isolating themselves in the wilderness, like our own Mormons, from the ken of all peoples."

The world knows that the real cause of the objection to the British proposals is not "fear of progress and Education," but the fear, grounded upon many acts official and ungificial, that it is the set purpose of the British Government to annex the territory of the Republic. The refusal of the Boers to grant extensions of the franchise taking the Utitanders into an equal share of the government is caused directly by these acts of armed aggression and the persistent attitude of the Tory statesmen of Great Britain.

L. J. P., "fully and, with astounding nonchaisnce, admits the reality of this danger to the dearly bought independence of the Boer in concluding his letter in these words: "The Boer reactionists fear to grant these demands because the open door to suffrage means that in time, and perhaps at no distant day, the new-comers will outvote them mid take the government into their own, hands."

The conditions imposed upon the Utilanders are certainly onerous, but let Mr. Chamberiain relinquish the British claim to suzerninty—a claim never based upon one lota of right or justice, and at the same time agree to respect the independence of the Transvaal, and at once the Utilanders will get an equal political representation in the Republic.

Until that is done the Boer must act in self-defence to revent the "new-comers taking the government into their own hands."

History shows that the sturity Dutch burghers know well how to accomplish the task.

New York, Aug. 18,

JOHN J. ROONEY.

NEW YORK, Aug. 18,

He Thinks That The American Playwrigh Has no Fair Show.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In this out-of he-way place we always read THE SUN, and today I have been reading the paper of three days which, it is supposed, will be popular in the future "The vogue of the costume drama seems to have spent itself," your critic writes. "The field of polite comedy is to be explored."

Give us some more of this kind of articles, but tell me why it is that "American writers haven't shown skill in this field." Suppose an American writer were to write a good drama of any kind would Sothern, or Drew, or Annie Russell or Viola Allen look at it?

I know to my certain knowledge that a very clever author, of reputation, too, wrote to Sothern and said he had a good play, and he sent a request for him to read it. Sothern didn't even have the courtesy to eply "no." He wrote then to Daniel Frohman, and Frohman answered that he would not read a play of the kind. Now, these people didn't know but that they might get a treasure. Anyway, they couldn't tell till they looked at the manuscript. It's all boshthis about the American author having a chance with these managers. Say something about this. I write merely to start

tionary war be popular? Books dealing with that subject have an immense sale. I see looming up in the future a great opportunity for the dramatist Why wont the American manager give him a chanc to show something of what is in him? I think a good stirring play dealing with Yorktown or Trenton or Stony Point, fine dramatic occasions

Another thing. Why will not plays of the Revolu

would make a p le of money. Tell your readers what THE SUN thinks of this. THE ADIRONDACES, Aug. 17.

One Form English, the Other Spanish TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Mr. Will you please aplain to several thousand puzzled readers why i is that the word "Philippines" is spelled as given while the name of the people is "Filipines"? this change in orthography? Avon, N. J., Aug. 19.

Cooking in a Carmelite Hospice.

From the Scientific American. development of electrical power at Niagar Palls in vast quantities has resulted in the installs tion in the new Carmellie Hospice of an electrical
plant for cooking and heating which has not its equal in the world. This hospice is located on the Cana dian side of the river some distance back from the

From the power station to the transformer house of the hospice, two miles, the current is conducted on bare copper wires. About 100 horse power is used in the hospice, twenty-five horse power for lighting. cooking and heating water, and seventy-five horse power for heating the lower floor of the building. In the butler's pantry there are three 5-gallo urns and a chafing-dish electrically operated. One o the urns is used for tea, one for coffee, and one for boiling water to supply the coffee and tea urns. In the kitchen are to be found features that are

ost interesting. The range has a heating surface of six square feet, and each square foot of surface has a switch and can be controlled to full or half hea roasting facilities are included in two small ovens and one large oven. The large oven is so arranged that it will roast four twenty-five pound roasts of meat at one time. Some idea of the work this quipment in this electrical kitchen will do may be gained from what was accomplished in it on June 15, the occasion of the blessing of the build ing and its formal opening for sacred purposes. At that time all the meats for two hundred and fifty nec ole were cooked in two and one-half hours, while all he other cooking for the same number of people was tone at the same time. This is with the exception of he soup, which was made the day before, as it re quires many hours of attention to be good. As the rest of all the apparatus is uniform, the liability t urn is less than with other fuels. As the point of baking or roasting is plainly indicated the cook caaske no mistake. In the small ovens bread can be baked in 16 minutes.

Effect of Marriage on Salaries. From the Chicago Record.

A young man and a young woman employed in a big supply house in Chicago fell in love and were mgaged to be married. The aggregate salary of the WO WAS \$18.

The young man notified his employers that he was short to marry and rather hinted that an increase of alary would be acceptable. The young woman notified the firm that she was about to marry and hoped that she would be permitted to keep her place. On the first pay day after the marriage the envelopes came as follows:

Man's salary \$10 a week
Woman's salary \$6 a week

Unappreciated. From the Dyersburg, Tenn., Herald. We never loved a tree or flower but that the rolling

stone gathered no moss. Our jokes fall flat, stale and unprofitable, while our serious and sober efforts evoke the most enthusiastic outbursts of merriment When we expect to splits side we break a heart, and when we would call up the tender tears from the heart of pathes wild and weelly outbursts of laughter smits upon our delicate and sensitive ear. When we try to preach a sermon we are mistaken for a jester, and when we seek to rival Josh Billings. Tal-

The Suffering of the Ministry. Congregational Minister in the Harfird Courant

I am in receipt of letters constantly from min-sters seeking charges, and the suffering and anxiety they disclose is appalling. It is a neces sity born of elementary human sympathy tha something he done. Only the most callous could refuse and I am convinced that the ministry will act when they see that it is in their power to right the wrong.

Liquid Air Crematory. From h Medical Record.

It is said that a company has been formed in this city which will erect a crematory near Nyack, where the rapid consumption of dead bod-e, will be effected by means of liquid air.

WAGES OF EXPERT IRON WORKERS.

The Prosperity That Has Come Again to

the Men of the Furnaces. READING, Pa., Aug. 19 .- "Earning \$6 a day, with time between heats to pitch quoits," is one of the oddities of labor in the iron world. The man referred to is a roller in one of the suburban rolling mills. He was only one of a type of expert workers in the iron mills. There are thousands more. Nearly all, in fact all, high-class workers are making good wages just now, especially those working in finished iron. The rollers have time between heats to rest, and if there is a quoiting ground very near the mill they can take a turn at that until the next heat is ready. Iron workers are general ally jolly and are fond of sport. Steam hammer-mon, spanner men and pipe welders are also highclass from workers at from five to seven dollars a day. In the West the prices are higher. Heaters in the East earn \$180 a month. Puddlers, by hard work, can make \$100 a month. A veretan iron-

"Of course we are all glad for the present good showing in the iron business. We are also glad for the work and the present wages. But fifteen years ago, or say twelve years ago, rollers got \$12 a day. Some got as high as \$15 a day for the same work as they now get \$6. Spannermen get \$12 and \$15 a day. It was all theirs, too. They did not have to pay any helpers as the puddlers did. Why, right here in this town, I knew a hammerman, Jim Smith was his name, who got \$8 a day right along, if the mill was running or not. I know pipe welders got \$7 a day and a bonus for extra good work, so that their wages sometimes ran as high as \$10 a day. The mills were fairly busy. too, right along, the same as they are now. I don't think necessaries of life were higher then than they are now. War prices have disappeared. But the mill owners were getting higher prices for their output; but not much higher than now, if figures keep on going up. But it's all right. We're getting our pay promptly, our families are happy and present wages will do. It's only here and there you hear of a small strike. Why, commo getting \$1.65 a day."

worker said to-day:

FRESH MEAT FOR YOUNG WASPS. The Secret of Keeping Spiders Alive in the Cell Till the Wasp Egg Hatches. From the Chautauguan.

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From the Chautauquum.

The wasp is not a vegetarian like the bee, and our cement maker has before her the problem of supporting her young with meat, rather than with bread. As her eggs are laid out in hot weather, and as enough food must be stored in the cell with the egg to mature the young insect, the question is how to preserve the meat fresh for so long a time. She meets the difficulty thus: After a tube is finished except at one end, which is left open, she flues off on a hunt for spiders. She finits a fat, healthy one, pounces upon it, stings it, and carries it off and places it in a mud cell. She repeats this process until she has placed as many spiders in the tube as, according to her judgment, will be needed. She then lays an egg in the cell and walls up the opening.

The remarkable thing about this performance is the magic effect of her sting. Whether it is the result of a subite poison or whether it is a spectal spot in the spider's nervous system where the sting is inserted, we do not know. Certain it is, that after being thus stung the spider lives on in a paralyzed condition for weeks and even months, it can move only slightly, and remains be pless in its mud sepuichre until the wasp egg hatches into a voracious grub, which at once falls to and eats with great relish the meat thus miraculously preserved.

Whether the wasp sting renders the spider in-

fails to and east with great relish the meat thus miraculously preserved.

Whether the wasp sting renders the spider insensible to pain or not is a question not yet settled. However, the chances are in favored the theory that it does. Anyway, we need waste no sympathy on the spider, the most bloodthirsty of all the little people of the fields and woods. There is a sense of retributive justice in the thought of a spider helpiess and at the mercy of a small insect which it would have mercilessly devoured had it been able.

So we need not accuse our alert, industrious cement-maker of any unreasonable cruelty if she, like us, inssiss upon a meat diet for her young, nor need we have any fear of her sting, for she seldom uses it as a weapon of offence or defence.

From the Galeeston Dafly News.

Gaiveston the largest ray flab ever caught in Gaiveston waters was landed on the beach yesterday afternoon, near Tolex's garden, at the foot of Seventh street.

Four east end young men, J. Harrison, Gus and Fred Schmiech and Will Niemeyer, sitting on the veranda at Tolex's place, espied the monster disporting in the guir not far from shore, and determined to give chase. Procuring a boat harpson, rope and knivas, they were soon alongside, and after some skillful maneuvring Mr. Harrison succeeded in driving the harpson home.

Mr. Harrison succeeded in driving the harpoon home.

The big fellow made the water holl for a few moments and then started for the deep water of the guif, dragging the boat after him at a lively speed for two or three miles. He then slackened, which enabled the men to plerce him with long knives lashed to poles, when, becoming exhausted and weak from loss of blood, he gave up and allowed himself to be lowed to the beach, a slow and arduous task. Upon reaching shore it was found life was extinct, and attaching the end of the rope to one of his feeders he was dragged by about fifty men and boys to a place on the beach.

beach.

He measures thirteen feet eight inches across, from up to tip of his flippers; thirteen feet from nose to tip of tail; five feet over his head; three feet across his cavernous mouth, into which a boy could crawl and lie down; his depth from ground to back is twenty inches, and his weight is estimated at 1.700 to 2,000 pounds. His thick skin is nearly black, and feels to the touch like India rubber, much like a porpoise. It is thought by some that he was blown to these waters by the late hurricana.

Plant That Causes Non-Ruminant Animals to Lose Hair. From the Washington S ar.

From the Washington S ar.

"A curious plant," said an eminent botanist to the writer a day or two ago, "Is the wild tamarind or junbai plant of the riverside and waste places of tropical America, and very strange are its effects upon the non-ruminant anima-s that feed upon its young shoots, leaves, pods and seeds. It causes horses to lose the hair from their manes and tails, has a similar effect upon mules and donkeys, and reduces pigs to complete nakedness. Horses are said to recover when fed exclusively on corn and grass, but the new hair is of different color and texture from the old, so that the animal is never quite the same as it was. One animal of which I personally knew, after feeding on the plant, lost its ho is and had to be kept in sings until they grew and hardened again. Ruminant animals are not thus affected, and the growth of the plant is actually encouraged in the Bahamas as a fedder plant for cattle, sheep and goats. The difference in its action upon ruminants and non-ruminants is probably due to changes effected upon it in the chewing of the cut."

Capt. McVane's 2:40 Shark. From the Portland Courier.

Capt. McVane of Long Island, Portland Harbor, can tell a pretty good story himself. He tells the Courier that while out after mackers!, the other night, suddenly, without the slightest warning his dory began to move uneasily just as it would if it had been moving over some partially submerged floating object, and then slowly but steadily it rose into the air, and turning over, threw McVane a couple of somersaults and landed him upon the back of a big shark. He clutched the dorsal fin and held on. The shark was probably the more frightened of the two and the moment Moverne struck him he started off on the surface at a 2:40 clip, heading about south by east, on a course that would take him close to Half-Way-Rock. He kept to the surface for about two miles and then diving, lett MeVane floundering about in the water not 300 yards from the Half-Way-Rock lighthonse. This be easily swam to and after getting into dry clothes was swam to and after getting into dry clothes was set ashore at Long Island.

Guest Bought the Hotel for Spite.

From the Henderson Gazette.

"One of the strangest incidents that I ever witnessed," remarked Col. Lyle, "occurred in Camden, S.C."

"How was that, Colonel?" interposed a Gazette reporter, and the crowd drew their chairs nearer.

"It was this way," continued the Colonel, "Several years ago, while I was in that city, a gentleman arrived at the hotel there early one morning, and while making some requests of the landiord, who rented the hotel, received a very short reply. Thereupon he inquired as to who owned the hotel. After receiving the information he went out and succeeded in finding the owner, and actually paid \$10,000 for the building, and in less than three hours returned to the hotel with the keys and a deed to the property and locked up the hotel, with the remark that "if the hotel could not be run decent he'd just close it up."

Business Curfew in "Missoury." From the Kansas City Journal.

A unique curfew arrangement is that in vogue in some of the Lewis county towns, un-der which the bell rings at 8:15 every evening as a signal for the merchants to close their stores and quit business for the day.

Sign Over a Negro Cabin in Georgia. From the Atlanta Coustilu ton,

The Yand are warfare, bands of prospect

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